

SHORT COMMUNICATION

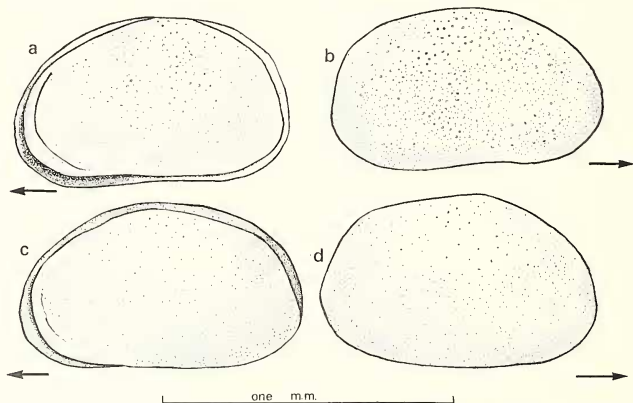
FOSSIL AND LIVING HEMICYPRIS (OSTRACODA)
FROM LAKE RUDOLF, KENYA

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ABSTRACT. A comparison is made between the fossil *Hemicypris posterotruncata* Bate 1970 and three living species of *Hemicypris* described from East Africa by Lindroth (1953). The possible ancestral position of *H. posterotruncata* to *H. klei* (Lindroth) is considered.

RECENTLY (Bate 1970) I described a new species of *Hemicypris* from sub-Recent beach sands discovered to the south-west of Lake Rudolf, Kenya. At that time I was unaware that Lindroth (1953) had described, in his paper on East African freshwater ostracods, three species of *Cyprinotus* assignable to the genus *Hemicypris*. These are *Cyprinotus klei*, *C. intermedius*, and *C. nonstriatus*. As all three species are similar in carapace outline to *H. posterotruncata* it was essential that a comparison of these ostracods be made. Through the kindness of Dr. Å. Holm of the Uppsala Universitets Zoologiska Museum, I was able to borrow Lindroth's original material thus making possible the following comments:

Hemicypris intermedius (Lindroth). This species, although close to *Hemicypris posterotruncata* in general outline, differs in the possession of a thickened anterior marginal



TEXT-FIG. 1. (a) Left side, carapace, *Hemicypris klei* (Lindroth); No. 36A. (b) Right side of same. (c) Left side, carapace, *Hemicypris posterotruncata* Bate; BMNH10. 1410. (d) Right side of same.

rim, a more broadly rounded posterior margin and a more strongly dentate left valve margin.

Hemicypris nonstriatus (Lindroth). Although laterally similar to *Hemicypris postero-truncata*, the straight line dorsal valvular overlap as against the antero-dorsally sinuous overlap of *H. posterotruncata*, readily serves to distinguish these two.

Hemicypris klei (Lindroth). Inhabiting the same stretch of water (Lake Rudolf) as did *H. posterotruncata*, *H. klei* is also morphologically very close and a comparison of the lateral carapace outline of both species is given in text-fig. 1a-d. From these illustrations it will be seen that *H. klei* differs in the following ways: the postero-dorsal slope is more steeply angled and the antero-dorsal angle less umbonate; the ventral margin is more distinctly concave and the shell surface covered with broad, shallow pits.

Hemicypris posterotruncata (sub-Recent or ?Pleistocene in age) not only occupies a position in time ancestral to *H. klei*, but geographically occupied the same spatial niche. Even without the soft part anatomy, the close similarity of carapace detail coupled with the stratigraphical position suggests that *H. klei* could have descended from *H. posterotruncata*. Whether this is also true of the other species of *Hemicypris* recorded from East Africa is a question which cannot as yet be answered.

This note adds to the known geographical distribution (see Bate, 1970, p. 292) of the genus *Hemicypris* Sars.

REFERENCES

- BATE, R. H. 1970. A new species of *Hemicypris* (Ostracoda) from ancient beach sediments of Lake Rudolf, Kenya. *Palaeontology*, **13**, 289-296, pl. 52.
LINDROTH, S. 1956 [printed 1953]. Taxonomic and Zoogeographical studies of the ostracod fauna in the inland waters of East Africa. *Zool. Bidrag Uppsala*, **30**, 43-156.

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